

Serial No. 09/834,208

**In the Claims:**

Please replace all previous versions of the claims with the following new claims:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) An oxygen mask comprising a pair of elastic bands, both ends of each pair affixed at points of attachment to each of both sides of said oxygen mask, said bands extendible to loop over and around each ear of the patient and adjustably securable to said patient by pulling the ends anteriorally through said points of attachment.
6. (Previously presented) The oxygen mask according to claim 5 wherein the elastic bands are affixed at four separate points on the mask.
7. (Previously presented) The oxygen mask according to claim 5 wherein the elastic bands are affixed at two separate points on the mask.
8. (Previously presented) An oxygen mask having an improved means for being secured over the nose and mouth of a patient, wherein the oxygen mask comprises a pair of elastic bands, both ends of each pair affixed at points of attachment to each of both sides of said oxygen mask, said bands extendible to loop over and around each ear of the patient and adjustably securable to said patient by pulling the ends anteriorally through said points of attachment.

Serial No. 09/834,208

9. (Previously presented) The oxygen mask according to claim 8 wherein the elastic bands are affixed at four separate points on the mask.

10. (Previously presented) The oxygen mask according to claim 8 wherein the elastic bands are affixed at two separate points on the mask.

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The mask of claim 5, wherein said mask comprises a nosepiece with two exhalation ports covered with a flap valve.

13. (Previously presented) The oxygen mask of claim 8, wherein said mask comprises a nosepiece with two exhalation ports covered with a flap valve.

14. (New) An oxygen mask for use on a patient, said oxygen mask comprising:  
a) a face mask molded from plastic to form a soft, one-piece covering for the mouth and nose of the patient, comprising a larger part of the mask defined by a face-conforming periphery, having a rim with an enlargement configured to substantially conform to the contour of the nose bridge of the patient;

a first side portion and an opposite second side portion configured to substantially conform to contour of the face of the patient, and a lower portion configured to substantially conform to the

Serial No. 09/834,208

contour of the face of the patient below the mouth so as to form a breathing chamber about the mouth and nostrils of the patient when the oxygen mask is positioned on the patient's face; and

b) a pair of elastic bands, both ends of each pair affixed to each of both sides of said mask, said bands extendible to loop over and around each ear of the patient for holding the face mask snugly against the patient's face, the straps comprising a left and right loop strap;

i) a first loop comprising a strap attached to the periphery of the mask at each of two points of attachment, said strap attached to said attachment points and connected to the face mask proximate the first side of the rim in a spaced apart relation to one another, with at least one loose end of the strap extending anteriorly through the attachment point;

ii) a second loop comprising a strap extending from an opposing side of the loop at a second juncture and being connected to the face mask proximate the second side of the rim in a spaced apart relation to one another, with at least one loose end of the strap extending anteriorly through the attachment point;

iii) wherein said loose ends of the straps extend anteriorly through the attachment point such that adjustment of said straps can be effected by anteriorly pulling the loose ends secured at the attachment points; and

iv) the straps are sized and oriented relative to one another such that when the face mask and the strap assembly are operably donned on the patient each of the first and second straps is

Serial No. 09/834,208

positioned substantially around a corresponding ear of the patient and has a length which extends approximately from a front side of the patient's ear to a rear side of the patient's ear to hold the mask securely on the patient's face.

15. (New) The oxygen mask of claim 14, wherein both ends of each of the straps is adjustably connected to the face mask.

16. (New) The oxygen mask of claim 14, wherein one end of each of the straps is adjustably connected to the face mask, and the second end of the strap is permanently attached.

17. (New) The oxygen mask of claim 14, which additionally comprises an adapter plug attached adjacent to the nostrils, for the attachment of a tube attached to a device selected from the group consisting of an oxygen reservoir bag, air entrainment device, and nebulizer.

18. (New) The oxygen mask of claim 14, wherein said mask comprises a nosepiece with two exhalation ports covered with a flap valve.